

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. Apparatus for perforating heat shrink film as the film moves past the apparatus, comprising: a rotating wheel having a plurality of teeth about the circumference of the wheel, the teeth engaging the heat shrink film substantially parallel to the direction of motion of the film.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a film slitter engaging the film.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the teeth are pointed to pierce the film and then slice as they penetrate further.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of dull portions between certain of the plurality of teeth, the dull portions preventing the film from being cut.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the dull portions further comprise notches between adjacent teeth.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the number of teeth is sixty and the notches are made between adjacent teeth at intervals corresponding to a factor of sixty.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising cut-outs in the wheel to reduce inertia and to act as finger grips.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wheel is substantially the size of a compact disc, allowing the wheel to be stored in a compact disc case.
9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wheel is mounted on a removable spindle pin.
10. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the film slitter further comprises a slitting knife.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the slitting knife is a razor blade.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising an actuator extending the
slitting knife against the film.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the actuator is an air cylinder.

5 14. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the film slitter follows the same path along
the film as the rotating wheel.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein motion of the film successively engaging
the teeth causes the wheel to rotate.

10 16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotating wheel can be moved out of
engagement with the film.

17. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the film slitter can be moved out of
engagement with the film.

18. Apparatus for perforating and slitting heat shrink film as the film moves past the apparatus, comprising:

5 (a) A rotating wheel having a plurality of teeth about the circumference of the wheel, the teeth engaging the heat shrink film substantially parallel to the direction of motion of the film; further comprising a plurality of dull portions between certain of the plurality of teeth, the dull portions preventing the film from being cut, and

(b) a film splitter.

10 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the teeth are pointed to pierce the film and then slice as they penetrate further.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the dull portions further comprise notches between adjacent teeth.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the number of teeth is sixty and the notches are made between adjacent teeth at intervals corresponding to a factor of sixty.

15 22. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising cut-outs in the wheel to reduce inertia and to act as finger grips.

23. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the wheel is substantially the size of a compact disc, allowing the wheel to be stored in a compact disc case.

20 24. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the wheel is mounted on a removable spindle pin.

25. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the film splitter further comprises a slitting knife.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the slitting knife is a razor blade.

27. Apparatus for perforating and slitting heat shrink film as the film moves past the apparatus, comprising:

- 5 (a) A rotating wheel having a plurality of teeth about the circumference of the wheel, the teeth engaging the heat shrink film substantially parallel to the direction of motion of the film; further comprising a plurality of dull portions between certain of the plurality of teeth, the dull portions preventing the film from being cut, wherein the dull portions further comprise notches between adjacent teeth; and
- 10 (b) a knife for slitting the film along a path in substantial alignment with that of the rotating wheel.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the teeth are pointed to pierce the film and then slice as they penetrate further.

29. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the number of teeth is sixty and the notches are made between adjacent teeth at intervals corresponding to a factor of sixty.

15 30. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising cut-outs in the wheel to reduce inertia and to act as finger grips.

31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the wheel is substantially the size of a compact disc, allowing the wheel to be stored in a compact disc case.

20 32. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the wheel is mounted on a removable spindle pin.

33. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the slitting knife is a razor blade.